

SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT FACT SHEET

Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services

February, 2002

This fact sheet contains information about the impact of alcohol and other drug use in the Middlesex, Suffolk, and Essex Senatorial District. Admission data were reported to the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS) Substance Abuse Management Information System in FY 2001.

Residents of Middlesex, Suffolk, and Essex Senatorial District

Treatment Admissions:

In FY 2001, there were 120,687 admissions to licensed substance abuse treatment services in all of Massachusetts. Of these, 24.4% (29,509) reside in the Middlesex, Suffolk, and Essex Senatorial District. Due to budget cuts in FY 2002, BSAS estimates that 19% (5,607) of Middlesex, Suffolk, and Essex Senatorial District residents will not be able to access treatment services. **Please note that these statistics represent only individual admissions, and represent a figure lower than the actual number of constituents in need of treatment services.**

- In FY 2001, 79.2% of admissions from the Middlesex, Suffolk, and Essex Senatorial District were male and 20.8% were female.
- Over 66.4% of admissions were between the ages of 30-49.
- 59.7% of admissions were white non-Latino, 21.2% were black non-Latino, 15.8% were Latino, 0.4% were Asians, and 2.9% were other racial categories.
- 71.6% of those admitted to treatment were never married, 8.8% were married, and 12.4% reported not to be married now.
- 30.4% of admissions had less than high school education, 50.9% completed high school, and 18.8% had more than high school education.
- 14.6% of those admitted to treatment were employed.
- 46.7% of those admitted were homeless.
- 8.6% of admissions had prior mental health treatment.

Substances Used in Past Year:

Upon entering treatment, each client is asked to report ALL substances used in the past year (12 months) prior to admission. Admissions frequently report using more than one substance within the year. The use of more than one psychoactive substance, such as alcohol and marijuana, is referred to as 'polydrug' or 'polysubstance' use. For example, individuals who use cocaine, crack and heroin also may report the use of either alcohol and/or marijuana.

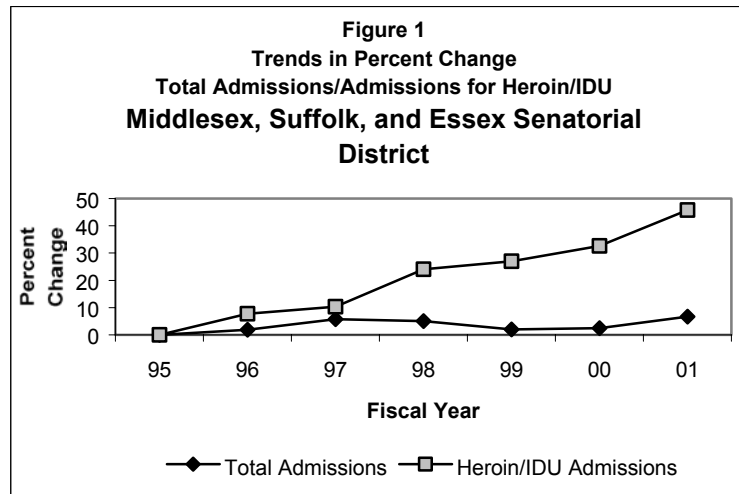
- Table 1 shows ALL substances which clients reported using in the year prior to admission, including the prevalence of injection drug use (IDU) in the Middlesex, Suffolk, and Essex Senatorial District. Injection drug users (or IDU's) are individuals who use a needle to ingest cocaine, crack, heroin or another drug to get high.

Table 1 Annual Admissions by Substance Used FY 1995 – FY 2001							
Middlesex, Suffolk, and Essex Senatorial District							
	Total	Alcohol	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack	Heroin	IDU
FY '95	27,655	21,373	7,904	11,224	7,974	8,985	5,596
FY '96	28,169	21,201	7,745	10,648	7,905	9,757	5,948
FY '97	29,253	22,510	7,688	9,828	7,758	9,752	6,327
FY '98	29,061	21,501	7,285	8,813	6,361	10,874	7,216
FY '99	28,218	20,843	6,703	8,676	5,927	11,204	7,309
FY '00	28,323	20,426	6,422	8,112	5,301	11,654	7,678
FY '01	29,509	20,449	6,660	7,971	4,911	13,170	8,091

- Since peaking in FY 1997, residents of Middlesex, Suffolk, and Essex Senatorial District reported a slight decline in alcohol use.
- Between FY 1995 and FY 2001, admissions reporting marijuana, cocaine and crack use have declined by 16%, 29%, and 38%, respectively, while heroin use increased by nearly 47%.

Heroin and Injection Drug Use:

Figure 1 below shows the proportional increases in all admissions in the Middlesex, Suffolk, and Essex Senatorial District and the proportional increase in admissions reporting heroin and injection drug use, a factor driving increases in HIV¹.



- Total treatment admission for all modalities rose 7% between FY 1995 and FY 2001. During the same period, admissions for heroin and injection drug use treatment increased 46%.

Primary Substance of Use:

At admission clients also identify a “primary drug” of use which is the substance currently causing them the most problems.

- Table 2 compares the proportional distribution of primary drugs in Massachusetts with that for the Middlesex, Suffolk, and Essex Senatorial District.

Table 2					
Primary Drug by District and State FY 2001					
	Alcohol	Heroin	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack
District	47.1%	38.1%	3.3%	3.9%	3.3%
State	46.5%	35.9%	6.5%	3.9%	3.4%

- While alcohol, cocaine, and crack as a primary drug of use in your Senatorial District was level with the State average, marijuana as a primary drug was lower and heroin was higher within your District.

¹ The Schneider Institute for Health Policy, Brandeis University, 2000